



Department of Defense National Public Lands Day 2006

06-86

Background:

National Public Lands Day began in 1994 with three sites and 700 volunteers. Coordinated by the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation, National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands American's enjoy. In 2006, approximately 100,000 volunteers worked at 1,100 locations in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the District of Columbia. Along with Department of Defense (DoD), 8 federal agencies and many state and local lands participate in this annual day of caring for shared lands. Generally, NPLD takes place on the last Saturday of September. In 2006, National Public Lands Day took place on September 30th.

The DoD Legacy Resource Management Program joined the NPLD partnership in 1999 to support volunteer habitat restoration projects on military installations throughout the U.S. and has provided financial support for NPLD events for the past 7 years.

Objective:

The primary objective of NPLD is to enlist those who use public lands for recreation in helping care for those places they enjoy. Participation in NPLD educates Americans about critical environmental and natural resources issues and the need for shared stewardship of these valued, irreplaceable lands.

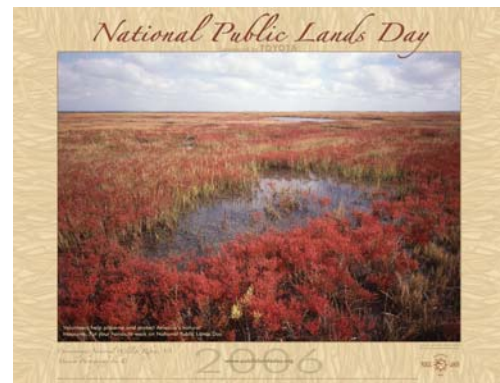
The military benefits from enhancing and restoring lands for recreation with much of this work directed to improving natural and cultural habitat for wildlife. In 2006, in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the Antiquities Act and the 40th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, cultural resource projects were especially encouraged. Additionally, the military benefits by inviting the community to learn about these lands and understand the unique challenges surrounding natural resource management on DoD installations.



Volunteers restore historic Fort Coso at China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station in California

Summary of Approach:

NPLD projects that take place on military installations are eligible for DoD Legacy funding. This is a competitive funding application process and projects generally emphasize habitat and cultural restoration - the forests, mountains, prairies, plains, rivers, wetlands, and urban streams that are home to a rich diversity of animals and plants as well as historic buildings, bridges, and other cultural structures. The maximum amount awarded to each site was \$6,000. Funds may be used for tools and equipment, materials, and enhancements to land used by the public, but not for T-shirts, food, or labor. The application is posted on the NPLD website (www.publiclandsday.org) and applications are due at the end of each May.



Accomplishments:

In 2006, 28 out of 41 applications were selected to receive Legacy funds. The following are just a few examples of work done at the selected military installations. At the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, volunteers restored gravestones in the historic Naval Academy cemetery. At Little Creek Cove, Naval Amphibious Base in Virginia, volunteers worked in partnership with the conservation staff at the National Aquarium in Baltimore to collect biological data from underwater grass beds. At Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge, Naval Weapons Station in California, volunteers planted over 500 native plants and restored portions of a wetland.

Contact Information:

Claudia Kessel
NEETF, 4301 Connecticut Ave. NW, Ste. 160
Washington, DC 20008

Ph: (202) 261-6478 Email: claudia@neetf.org

Website: www.publiclandsday.org

Or

DoD Legacy Resource Management Program
1225 S Clark St. Ste 1500, Arlington VA 22202

Ph: (703) 604-1774; Email Jane.Mallory.ctr@osd.mil

Website: www.dodlegacy.org